

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 234 047 (13) A

(43) Date of A publication 23.01.1991

(21) Application No 8916310.9

(22) Date of filing 17.07.1989

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(51) INT CL⁵

F41A 17/44

(52) UK CL (Edition K)

F3C CPA

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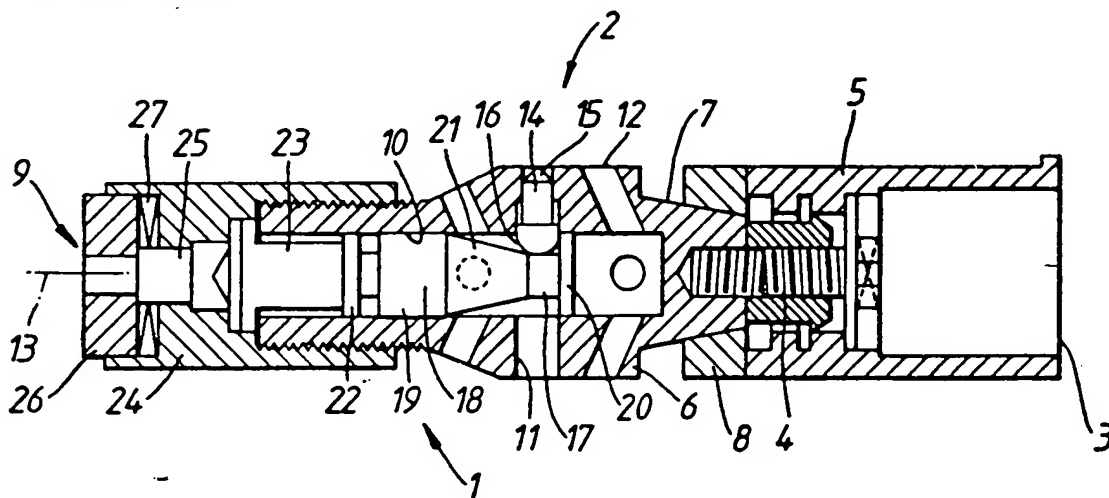
(58) Field of search

UK CL (Edition K) F3C CPA

INT CL⁵ E05B, F41A

(54) Locking device

(57) A locking device suitable for use in a gun to prevent unauthorized use of the gun includes a key operated lock 3 operable to expand a ring 8 into locking engagement with the gun chamber. In order to prevent removal of the device by applying force to the muzzle end of the device locking pins 14 are mounted in radial bores 11 to be cammed radially outwardly by a tapered actuating member 18 if a piston 22 is driven away from the muzzle end. An explosive cartridge 23 is detonated by a firing pin 25 if force sufficient to invert Belleville washers 27 is applied to an end plate 26 thereby driving the piston in the desired manner.



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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

LOCKING DEVICE

This invention relates to a locking device which, upon actuation, is locked to a hollow body within which the device is situated. Although of general applicability the preferred embodiment of locking device is particularly suitable for forming part of a safety device for firearms, the safety device being adapted to be secured by a key within the chamber of a firearm and to be locked permanently to the chamber of the firearm upon actuation of the locking device of the invention. ←

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a locking device which, upon actuation, is locked to a hollow body within which the device is situated, the locking device comprising: a body having a central longitudinal bore and a plurality of radial passages extending from the bore radially outwardly to the surface of the body; a locking pin located in each passage with the radially inner end of each pin located extending into the bore; an actuating member located in the bore, the actuating member having a cylindrical region and a tapering region which tapers inwardly from the cylindrical region and being positioned such that upon axial movement of the actuating member the locking pins will be cammed radially outwardly by the tapering region and thereafter locked in a radial outward position by the cylindrical region; a piston mounted in the cylinder and coupled to the actuating member ←

given by way of example only, reference being had to the accompanying drawing wherein the single Figure illustrates schematically in partial axial cross-section a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Referring to the drawing there is illustrated an embodiment of locking device 1 according to the present invention which forms part of a security device 2 for a shot gun. The overall configuration of the security device 2 is similar to that of a conventional shot gun cartridge so that the entire security device may be positioned within the chamber of a shot gun. Once the security device has been so positioned a key operated lock 3 (which is only shown in outline in the drawing) is actuated to rotate a screw threaded member 4 which draws the lock housing 5 towards the body 6 of the locking device. An end region 7 of the body 6 is formed with a taper on which is mounted a split ring 8 having a matching taper. Movement of the lock housing 5 towards the body 6 will accordingly force the ring 8 up the taper 7 to expand the ring radially into locking engagement with the wall of the chamber of the gun. Once the ring 8 has been expanded into firm contact with the chamber wall the key is removed from the lock 3 and the shot gun is secure.

The locking device 1 prevents any attempt to drive the security device 2 from the chamber of the gun by applying a force to the end 9 of the security device using a drift which is inserted through the muzzle end of the barrel of the gun.

The locking device 1 comprises the body 6 which is machined from a suitable material, for example mild steel. The body 6 includes an axial bore 10 and a plurality of radially extending passages 11 which extend from the bore 10 to the radially outer surface 12 of the body 6. In a typical embodiment of the invention six radially extending passages 11 are provided equi-angularly

actuating member 18 and operates in the cylindrical bore 20. In order to drive the piston, and with it the actuating member, an explosive charge is provided by means of a blank cartridge 23 which is positioned within an end region of the bore 10 and is held in position by means of a cap 24 which screw threadingly engages the exterior surface of the body 6. The piston 22 is sized to be tight fit within the bore 10 so that upon detonation of the cartridge 23 there is minimum passage of gasses past the piston. The entire explosive force of the cartridge is accordingly contained between the piston 22 and the cartridge case and the piston is driven to the right as viewed in the drawing with sufficient force to move the actuating member to the right to set the locking device as described above.

Detonation of the cartridge 23 is achieved by means of a firing pin 25 which abuts an end plate 26. A pair of Belleville washers 27 are located between the plate 26 and the cap 24 so that upon application of a steadily increased force to the exposed end of the plate 26 there will be little movement of the plate 26 until the force of the Belleville washers 27 is overcome, whereupon the plate 26 will snap to the right as viewed in the drawing applying a percussive force to the firing pin 25 to detonate the cartridge.

Preferably, a plastics protective sleeve is positioned over the cap 24 and the plate 26 in order to ensure that if the security device is dropped on the floor or otherwise accidentally knocked the cartridge will not be detonated. It will be noted, however, that in the event of accidental detonation of the cartridge there is no risk that the pins 15 will be propelled out of their associated bores because there is minimal flow of gas past the piston 22 and accordingly after the pins have reached the top of the tapered region 21 there will be no further force

CLAIMS

1. A locking device which, upon actuation, is locked to a hollow body within which the device is situated, the locking device comprising: a body having a central longitudinal bore and a plurality of radial passages extending from the bore radially outwardly to the surface of the body; a locking pin located in each passage with the radially inner end of each pin located extending into the bore; an actuating member located in the bore, the actuating member having a cylindrical region and a tapering region which tapers inwardly from the cylindrical region and being positioned such that upon axial movement of the actuating member the locking pins will be cammed radially outwardly by the tapering region and thereafter locked in a radial outward position by the cylindrical region; a piston mounted in a cylinder and coupled to the actuating member for axially moving the actuating member; an explosive charge for driving the piston; and means for detonating the explosive charge in response to application of axial force to one end of the device.

2. A locking device according to claim 1 incorporating means allowing the locking device to be releasably secured in the hollow body.

3. A locking device according to claim 2 wherein said means allowing the locking device to be releasably secured in the hollow body comprises a key operated means for radially expanding the locking device into engagement with the hollow body.

